(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether Government will bring it before Parliament during its current Session for consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRIBRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steel policy of the Government would endeavour to facilitate development of a world class and globally competitive steel industry in the country to cater to the rising domestic demand and to increase the share of the Indian Steel Industry in the world market. The policy would also address all issues of concern to the industry which *inter alia* include technology upgradation, R and D, quality enhancement etc. and endeavour to chalk out a desirable course of Government initiatives and actions as also an appropriate industry strategy consistent with each other to take the industry from strength to strength.

(c) to (e) The first draft of the National Steel Policy was discussed with all major steel producers, their associations, consultancy firms in the field of metallurgy and representatives of FICCI, Ministries of Commerce and Finance. The participants suggested certain changes to be incorporated in the policy document and accordingly it was decided that the draft would be modified in light of the suggestions so given and the revised policy document would again be circulated to all concerned before giving it a final shape. While further consultations with industry were in progress, it was observed that the irdustry in general showed signs of revival. In addition, concerted activity was observed on the trade front. It was felt that the imperatives of the changing scenario should be incorporated in the Steel Policy. Accordingly, a round of fresh informal consultations is in progress and a revised draft is expected to be circulated again for obtaining the views of the industry.

Proposals under research and technology Mission

3859. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals evaluated by the research and technology mission during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals forwarded to the Empowered Committee for its consideration during that period, year-wise; and

(c) the major recommendations of the Empowered Committee on these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRIBRAJ KISHORE TRIPATH Y): (a) and (b) The work of Research and Technology (R & T) Mission is being carried out by the Technical Wing of the Ministry of Steel. The year-wise number of proposals evaluated and forwarded to Empowered Committee (EC) during the last three years are as under :

SI. No.	Year	No. of proposals evaluated during the year	No. of proposals forwarded to EC during the year
1.	2000-01	32	21
2.	2001-02	15	06
3.	2002-03	15	Nil
	TOTAL	62	27

(c) Out of 27 research proposals forwarded to the Empowered Committee, the EC approved 7 research proposals for financial assistance from Steel Development Fund (SDF). The remaining proposals have been rejected because of different reasons. Some of these are inadequate R&D content in the proposals or the scientific principles were not explained properly, techno-economic feasibility were not established or there was no participation by the industrial undertakings to utilize the results of the R&D activity. The proposers have been intimated the specific reasons for rejection and they may resubmit the proposals after meeting the deficiencies pointed out.

Subsidy on steel production

†3860. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidy is provided on steel production in several steel producing countries of the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi